THE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF MEN IN THE 77TH ILLINOIS VOLUNTEER INFANTRY DURING THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR
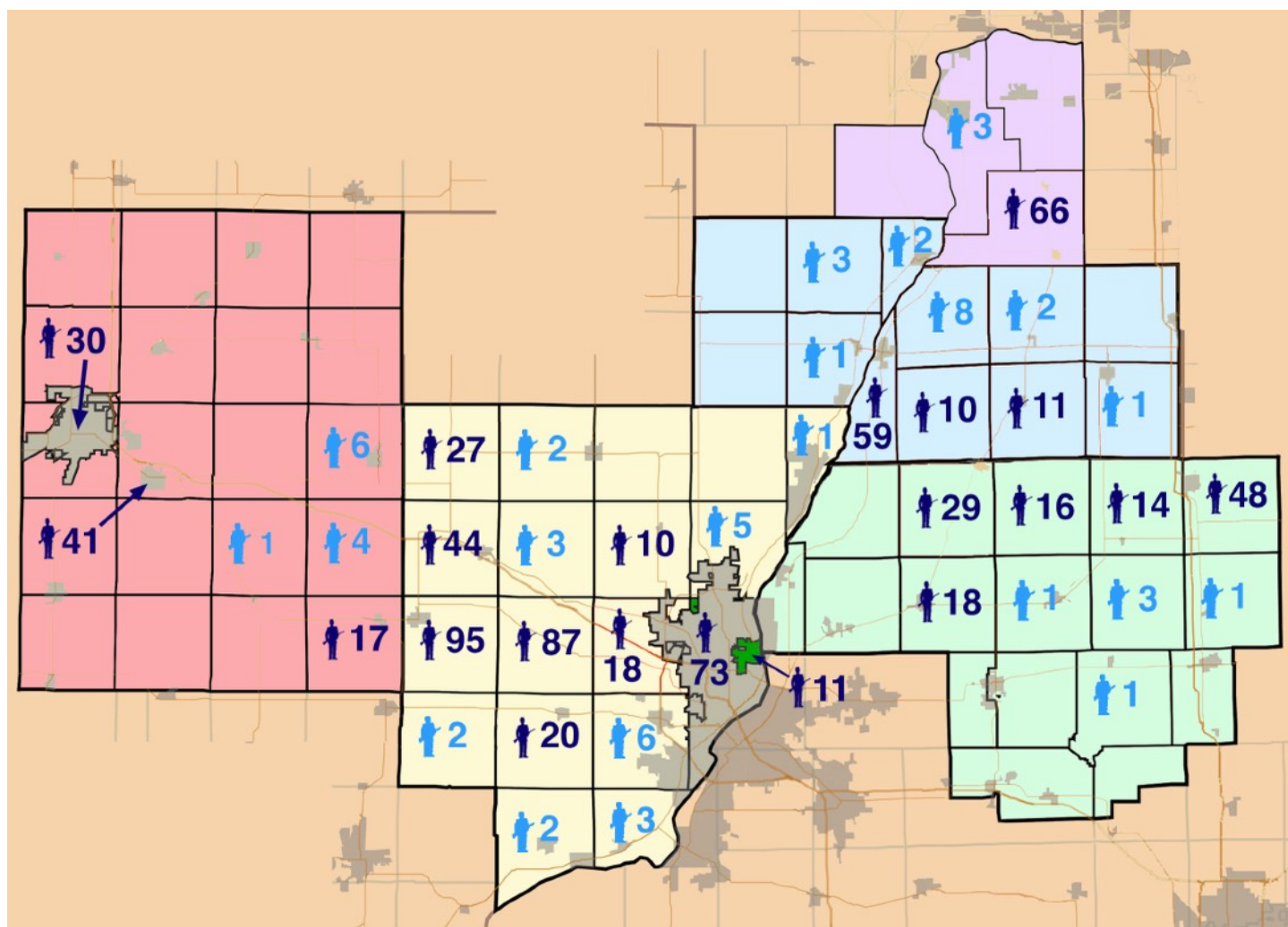

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DISTRIBUTION BY COUNTY AND TOWNSHIP

The chart above shows the geographic distribution (by home township) of men who enlisted in the 77th Illinois Volunteer Infantry. To create this chart, I inventoried the home townships or cities of all men listed in Chapter 2 of William Bentley's *History of the 77th Illinois Volunteer Infantry*, which lists all men who mustered into that regiment in September of 1862.

The Central Illinois counties shown here are Knox (red), Peoria (yellow), Woodford (green), Marshall (blue), and Putnam (violet). The township border lines are shown within each county. Within each township that produced a volunteer soldier stands a soldier icon and number. The number is how many men volunteered for the regiment from that township, as noted in Bentley's book. Numbers rendered in light blue are for numbers below 10. Dark blue numbers identify a township that produced 10 or more men.

The top five townships from which men volunteered for service were: Elmwood Township of Peoria County (95); Rosefield Township of Peoria County (87); the city of Peoria (73); Magnolia Township of Putnam County (66); and Lacon Township of Marshall County (59).

DISTRIBUTION BY COMPANY

The typical infantry regiment of the early Civil War consisted of 10 companies (each with exactly 100 men), according to William Hardee's 1855 *Rifle and Light Infantry Tactics* manual, which was used by both armies.

       The table below was derived from the same dataset acquired from Bentley's *History of the 77th Illinois Volunteer Infantry*. It provides information about the geographic distribution of men for each company in that regiment. The table clearly illustrates the fact that during the Civil War, both regiments and their companies were highly segregated by geographic location. The advantage of that was that volunteers would likely know the men that they're serving with, and therefore perform better as soldiers. The disadvantage was that in some instances, a given city, village, or township would lose all or many of its men in one battle if that particular company was selected to lead the assault.

       Regimental officers are listed separately, since they were usually selected based on their prior war record or because of local politics. However, company officers <u>are</u> included in their company totals, since these men were usually selected from within the company after it had been formed.

Company	Peoria	Woodford	Knox	Marshall	Putnam	Other
Officers	14	4	6	0	2	0
A	22	0	68	0	0	0
B	6	0	0	2	67	0
C	20	52	0	3	0	1
D	2	0	0	80	1	2
E	86	0	0	0	0	0
F	49	25	10	9	0	1
G	50	0	5	1	0	2
H	1	70	0	3	0	21
I	69	0	17	0	0	0
K	92	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	**411**	**151**	**106**	**98**	**70**	**27**

Note: Readers may notice that there is no company J. That is not an omission. The military at that time did not designate a company J. In 18th and 19th Century written English, the capital "I" and "J" were difficult to distinguish, which would lead to much confusion in hand written military orders. The decision to avoid "J" may have even older roots. In Latin, the letters "i" and "j" (and also "u" and "v") were usually treated as two forms of the same letter. On many ancient Roman coins, Jupiter was spelled "IVPPITER" and Augustus was spelled "AVGVSTVS."

[This information from **www.pochefamily.org/books/No%20Company%20J.html**].

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★ PEORIA COUNTY

Township	Officers	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	K	Total
Brimfield	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	42	0	1	0	44
Chillicothe	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Elmwood	4	2	0	0	0	9	8	1	0	67	4	95
Hollis	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Jubilee	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	3
Kickapoo	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	4	0	0	10	18
Limestone	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	6
Logan	0	0	0	10	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	20
Medina	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
Millbrook	0	0	0	0	0	1	25	0	0	1	0	27
Peoria (city)	9	19	6	8	0	17	10	2	1	0	1	73
Princeville	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
Radnor	0	1	0	0	0	8	1	0	0	0	0	10
Richwoods	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	11
Rosefield	0	0	0	0	0	12	2	0	0	0	73	87
Timber	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
Trivoli	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
TOTALS	**14**	**22**	**6**	**20**	**2**	**86**	**49**	**50**	**1**	**69**	**92**	**411**

★ WOODFORD COUNTY

Township	Officers	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	K	Total
Cazenovia	2	0	0	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27
Clayton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	0	14
Greene	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
Linn	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	16
Lowpoint (village)	0	0	0	2	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	6
Metamora	0	0	0	3	0	0	14	0	1	0	0	18
Minonk	2	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	40	0	0	48
Panola	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Roanoke	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Secor (village)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Washburn (village)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Unspecified	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15
TOTALS	**4**	**0**	**0**	**52**	**0**	**0**	**25**	**0**	**70**	**0**	**0**	**151**

★ KNOX COUNTY

Township	Officers	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	K	Total
Elba	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	4
Galesburg	2	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30
Gilson (village)	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Knoxville (city)	4	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	41
Salem	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	16
Truro	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	6
Yates City (city)	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	0	0	0	7
TOTALS	**6**	**68**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**10**	**5**	**0**	**17**	**0**	**106**

★ MARSHALL COUNTY

Township	Officers	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	K	Total
Bell Plain	0	0	0	0	4	0	4	0	3	0	0	11
Bennington	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Henry	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Hopewell	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Lacon	0	0	2	0	54	0	3	0	0	0	0	59
Richland	0	0	0	2	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
Roberts	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Steuben	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Whitefield	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	3
Unspecified	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
TOTALS	**0**	**0**	**2**	**3**	**80**	**0**	**9**	**1**	**3**	**0**	**0**	**98**

★ PUTNAM COUNTY

Township	Officers	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	K	Total
Hennepin	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Magnolia	2	0	64	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	66
Unspecified	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
TOTALS	**2**	**0**	**67**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**70**

★ OTHER ILLINOIS COUNTIES

Township	Officers	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	K	Total
Bureau Co.	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
LaSalle Co.	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Livingston Co.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	15
Tazewell Co.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	6
Fulton Co.	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Warren Co.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Henry Co.	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
TOTALS	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**2**	**0**	**1**	**2**	**21**	**0**	**0**	**27**

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GRAND TOTAL:

ALL COUNTIES	**26**	**90**	**75**	**76**	**85**	**86**	**94**	**58**	**95**	**86**	**92**	**863**

Related books by the author

Our Union to Restore documents the troop movements and war experiences of the author's six known Civil War ancestors, who fought for the Union Army in two Illinois and one Ohio infantry regiments.

Brothers in Arms investigates the lives of the 18 men whose carte de visite photographs were owned and safeguarded by the author's great-great grandfather, who fought alongside his fellow citizen soldiers from central Illinois in the 77th Illinois Volunteer Infantry.

77th Illinois Photo Album is an ongoing effort to gather digital scans of all existing photographs of soldiers from that Peoria-based regiment, gleaned from online photo archives, museums, historical societies, and collectors.

These books can be read and/or downloaded
from my *Permanent.org* archive at:

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